

Abstract

A device is disclosed for passing a flexible elongated element through a portion of a subject. In an embodiment, the device includes structure for retaining said flexible elongated element; and advancement ~~means~~<sup>structure</sup> for longitudinally advancing ~~said~~<sup>the</sup> flexible elongated element from a proximal end of the device toward a distal end of the device with sufficient force to pass the flexible elongated element through the portion of the subject, ~~wherein said advancement means~~<sup>The structure</sup> includes at least one drive wheel for contacting the flexible elongated element, and further wherein the at least one drive wheel contains a peripheral groove therein for receiving the flexible elongated element so as to provide increased contact area between the at least one drive wheel and the flexible elongated element.

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